

**BEFORE THE INVESTIGATIVE PANEL OF THE  
FLORIDA JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION  
STATE OF FLORIDA**

INQUIRY CONCERNING A JUDGE,  
HON. RALPH E. ERIKSSON,  
CASE NO. 07-64

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SC CASE NO. 07-1648

**REPLY TO MOTION TO STRIKE**

Comes now the Florida Judicial Qualifications Commission by and through undersigned counsel, and in reply to the respondent judge's Motion to Strike, would state:

Canon 2 of the Code of Judicial Conduct mandates that judges shall act at all times in a manner that promotes public confidence in the integrity and impartiality of the judiciary. Judge Eriksson's volunteered unfortunate remark casts doubt on his capacity to act impartially as a judge and serves to demean his judicial office.

The argument that the judge's own words should not be used against him, as they are humiliating, demonstrates why it is appropriate for the Hearing Panel of the Commission to consider those words. Judge Eriksson made the offensive statement as a partial explanation of his motivation for

his actions in court. As was stated by Publilius Syrus in the 1<sup>st</sup> century B.C., "Speech is a mirror of the soul: as a man speaks, so he is."

Wherefore, based upon the foregoing, the Commission requests that the Motion to Strike be denied.

Respectfully Submitted,

**JUDICIAL QUALIFICATIONS COMMISSION**

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**CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE**

I HEREBY CERTIFY that a true and correct copy of the foregoing has been furnished by US mail to Chandler R. Muller, Esq., Counsel to Hon. Ralph E. Eriksson, Muller & Sommerville, P.A., 1150 Louisiana Avenue, Ste. 2, Winter Park, FL 32789, Hon. Thomas B. Freeman, Chairman, Hearing Panel, Criminal Justice Center, 14250 49<sup>th</sup> Street North, Clearwater, FL 33762-2801, and John R. Beranek, Esq., Counsel to Hearing Panel, PO Box 391, Tallahassee, FL 32302, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2008.

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Michael L. Schneider  
General Counsel

